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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies SAN SALVADOR,
TEGUCIGALPA, MANAGUA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REF :

REVIEWED BY *Cal* DATE 7 OCT 1968
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

DATE: June 22, 68 JUN 25 1968

1. Constitutional guarantees were restored to Guatemalans at midnight on June 16 when the State of Alert was allowed to expire without being prolonged. The country had been in some emergency condition--State of Alert or State of Siege--since January 16. The return of guarantees, including the removal of the ban on political activity, was greeted by a resurgence in interest in the more traditional forms of political expression. The government announced that municipal elections will be held soon and the three legally inscribed parties--the PR, the PID, and the MLN--all began flurries of activity. The DCG also received good news in the form of a favorable court ruling to the DCG's appeal of the Election Tribunal's ruling that it was not a legally inscribed party. (There are additional legal hurdles the party must clear before it will be inscribed, however.)

2. Despite the atmosphere of return to normal some political violence continued and there were other indications that more potential violence was not very far below the surface.

3. One such indication was the threat to four top leaders of the non-communist independent labor confederation CONTRAGUA. The leaders were given 15 days to leave the country or be assassinated (see Guatemala 5147 *[REDACTED]*)

4. An encouraging sign was the announcement by Minister of Government that the south coast bandit gang "Los Lobos" had been completely liquidated. On the other side of the coin, however, were several reports from the Department of Jutiapa that a new submachine gun-armed band was terrorizing that area.

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